

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed are methods for identifying individuals predisposed to essential hypertension and related conditions such as salt sensitivity by detecting the presence of polymorphic or mutant forms of the *GRK4* gene, or its expression product. Also disclosed are methods for identifying polymorphic or mutant *GRK4s* in individuals known to be suffering from such conditions, as well as methods and compositions for conducting drug discovery and therapeutic intervention.

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